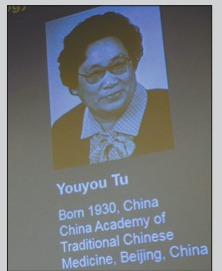


YOUR WEEK IN CHINA'S CAPITAL

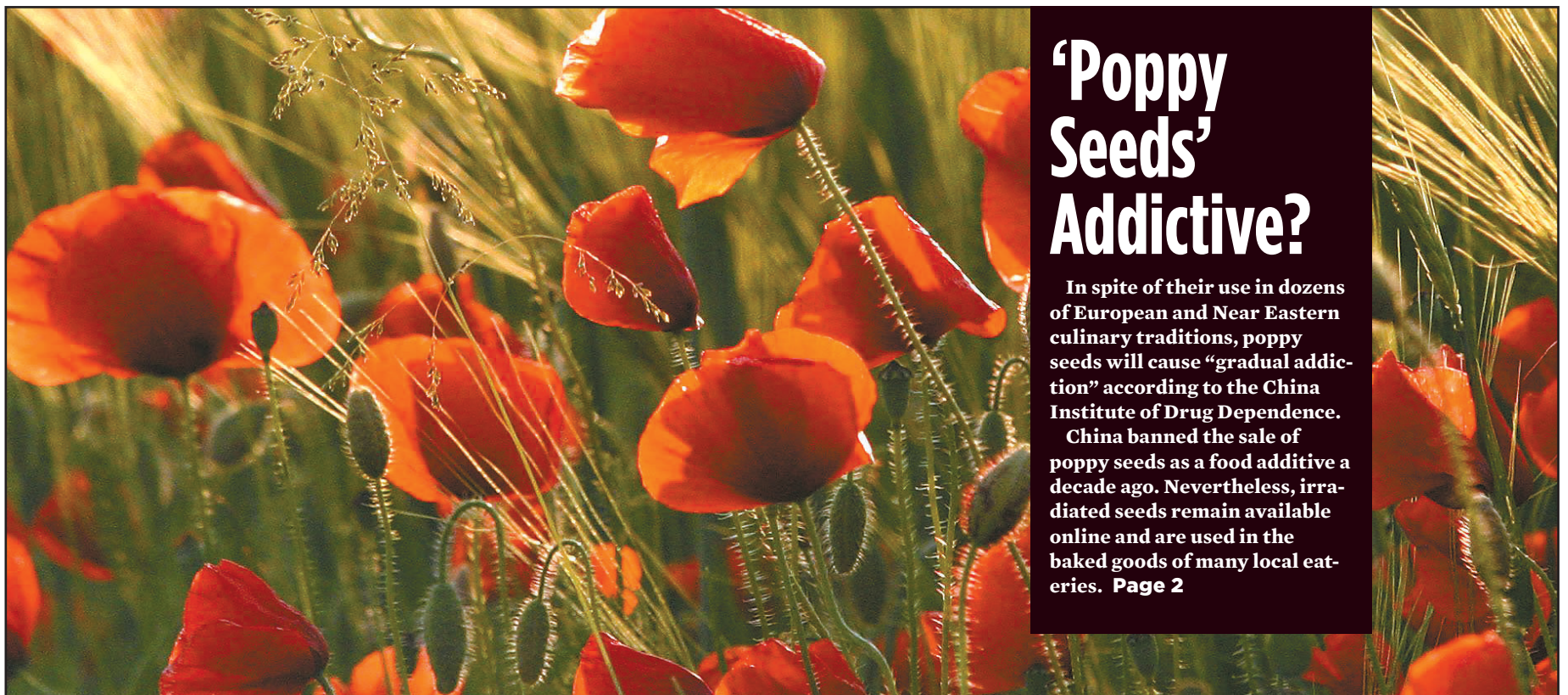
今日北京

BEIJING TODAY

HTTP://BEIJINGTODAY.COM.CN/

Online Dating
the New Path
to MarriageOnline matchmaking sites
have become the practical
answer for marriage. **Page 4**Audiobook
Boom Lands on
Smart DevicesChina's multitaskers are
making the jump from e-books
to audiobooks. **Page 5**Merit Won't
Win Title of
AcademicianTu Youyou's Nobel win is
a reminder of everything
rotten in academia. **Page 6**

Youyou Tu
Born 1930, China
China Academy of
Traditional Chinese
Medicine, Beijing, China

'Poppy
Seeds'
Addictive?

In spite of their use in dozens
of European and Near Eastern
culinary traditions, poppy
seeds will cause "gradual addic-
tion" according to the China
Institute of Drug Dependence.

China banned the sale of
poppy seeds as a food additive a
decade ago. Nevertheless, irra-
diated seeds remain available
online and are used in the
baked goods of many local eat-
eries. **Page 2**

Capital's Neighbor Suffers Teacher Shortage

BY YANG XIN

A teacher shortage has left students at Huifu Experimental School without their Chinese class since the start of the new semester last month.

Teacher shortages are common in China due to an immense student population and notoriously low pay. But in the case of Huifu Experimental School, things are not that simple.

The school is located in Yanjiao, a development zone in Sanhe, Hebei province some 40 kilometers away from downtown Beijing.

Many of the capital's former denizens who were pushed out during the last decade settled in the town, which today has more than 300,000 people – mostly young couples with school-aged children.

In the case of Huifu, more than 170 7th-grade student do not have access to a Chinese teacher. While their schedule calls for two periods of Chinese class every day, no teacher has ever arrived to the scheduled class periods.

"With the continuous increase in enrollment, our elementary and secondary school are short more than 500 teachers," said the deputy director of the Sanhe Municipal Education Bureau.

The swelling of population in Sanhe, particularly in Yanjiao, and a tightening of school enrollment policies in urban Beijing have contributed to the local student population increase, the deputy director said.

According to a CCTV report, the

number of students in Yanjiao has been increasing at 2,000 per year since 2009. That's equivalent to the total student population of one elementary school.

The deputy director said the bureau is urging its schools to hire more teachers and to contact normal schools to request trainee teachers. The bureau also submitted an application to the municipal government to ask for more teachers to be granted authorized personnel status.

At the moment, only seven teachers have authorized personnel status in the township: more than 30 have been left waiting. Bureau limitations prevent non-authorized personnel from earning more than 1,000 yuan per month. ■

CHINESE STOCK INDEXES

SSE (Shanghai)

Close	Change	YTD
3,367.74	▲ 48.06 (1.45%)	+4.14%

SZSE (Shenzhen)

Close	Change	YTD
11,305.10	▲ 389.11 (3.56%)	+2.64%

HSI (Hong Kong)

Close	Change	YTD
22,845.37	▼ 143.85 (0.63%)	-3.22%

Accurate to market close on October 22, 2015





Black Market Plastic Surgeons Wreck Thousands of Faces

BY YANG XIN

China has surpassed South Korea to become the world's third largest plastic surgery market, according to China News Net. About 1.05 million people undergo plastic surgery procedures each year on the Chinese mainland, mostly as microsurgeries.

But beauty-seekers may find themselves with only pain and no gain. According to a report released by China Consumers' Association in 2012, plastic surgeries were responsible for 20,000 complaints each year of the last decade.

Jinghanyimei is a plastic surgery



training studio in Beijing for those who are eager to get involved in the industry.

Its training period is surprisingly short: four days.

The *Beijing News* conducted a two-month undercover investigation of the studio starting in July. Its findings were more than shocking.

Trainees were told to form two-person teams and to practice by injecting saline into each other's faces. At the end of the course, each trainee could purchase a South Korea Cosmetic Industry Certification for 7,800 yuan.

Its teachers were caught selling counterfeit creotoxins and hyaluronic acid to trainees at the end of the course, both of which are banned for private sale under Chinese law.

There are only 10,000 licensed plastic surgery practitioners on the Chinese mainland, said Liu Yunzhong, director of the Hays Cosmetic Hospital in Guangzhou, Guangdong province. The remaining tens of thousands of practitioners lack any qualifications.

There are strict approval procedures for injectable cosmetic products in the mainland. Most on the market are fake cosmetic products smuggled across China's southern border, one of the lectures said. In August, the Shandong Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau allied with Qingdao Custom to seize more than 4,000 cosmetic surgery needles that lacked an approval certificate.

Statistics from the Chinese Association of Plastics and Aesthetics show that approximately 70 percent of the cosmetic products on the market are counterfeit.

However, it is not easy for law-enforcement to interfere in the industry.

"Years before, most of the black market plastic surgeons conducted their business in beauty salons. Gradually, they realized it was easier to hide their operations in private residences, which are more difficult to locate and monitor," some experts told Xinhua News.

The government itself lacks precautionary measures in this field.

"The government does not play any role until customers report a botched surgery. We hope to see the government be more proactive in its supervision of private plastic surgery institutions and products," said Luo Shengkang, a leading researcher at the plastic surgery and laser center of Guangdong No. 2 Provincial People's Hospital. ■

Gov Says Inactivated Poppy Seeds Still Addictive

BY DIAO DIAO



CFP Photos

China banned the use of poppy seeds as a food additive a decade ago, but poppy seeds are still commonly used in food products sold in shops and online stores.

Bulk seeds are also available on many popular shopping websites, where sellers claim that all seeds are inactivated and can only be used as a flavoring.

Poppy seeds for consumption are irradiated with a cobalt-60 isotope to destroy the seeds' reproductive abilities. After irradiation, seeds can be used as a nutritional food seasoning or oil.

Reporters from the *Beijing Youth Daily* purchased a French bread with poppy seeds and spent 56 yuan on a bag of inactivated poppy seeds for inspection.

Sun Qun, an associate professor of seed science at China Agricultural University, attempted to sprout the seeds to identify which of the 55 poppy species were present in the bag. About 1 percent of the seeds were able to sprout in spite of having been irradiated.

A national level food analysis and testing center said the French bread contained five kinds of poppy seeds. The seeds contained roughly 152 milligrams of morphine per kilogram of seeds.

A kilogram of poppy seeds would fill a 1.68 liter container.

Lu Lin, director of Peking University Sixth Hospital and the head of China Institute of Drug Dependence, said the morphine and papaverine found in the two samples could cause gradual addiction.

"Morphine is administered to cancer patients in 10 milligram doses. To find 152 milligrams in a kilogram of seeds is surprising," Lu said.

In 2005, China stated that poppy seeds could only be used to make oil. Sales of poppy seeds as flavor or seasoning is prohibited. The only company permitted to use poppy seeds to make oil is located in Gansu province.

Most poppy seeds sold online are imported from Russia, Austria, Germany, or one of the dozens of countries where the seeds are considered a common food additive.

The Ministry of Public Security said that though selling poppy seeds is not punished under drug trafficking laws, it is still illegal. ■

Nobel Prize No Win for Traditional Medicine

BY YANG XIN

Chinese scientist Tu Youyou's Nobel Prize is not as encouraging for traditional Chinese medicine as it may appear. In some ways, it's an alert that China should put more effort to the protection of its traditional medicines.

The *Beijing News* reported that sales of artemisinin – Tu's remarkable discovery – and its derivatives could reach up to \$1.5 billion. Less than 1 percent of that will ever make it to the Chinese market due to the loss of the drug patent, which was sold to the multinational pharmaceutical giant Novartis several decades ago.

The shrink of traditional medicine patents in China shows no sign of reversal.

China's Food and Drug Administration

(FDA) released the 2014 Drug Approval Report earlier this year, stating that among the 149 drugs approved by FDA last year, only 11 were derived from Chinese medicine, a 5 percent drop compared to 2014.

On the international drug market, created-in-China medicines have little presence.

Statistics from the Daiwa Institute of Research show that in the overseas Chinese medicine market, China occupies a 0.3 percent share. Japan and South Korea occupy a combined 70 percent of the market.

In other words, Chinese-made Chinese medicine accounts for less than 5 percent of a market valued at \$30 billion.



A recent CCTV report claims that while finding little space for development domestically, Chinese medicine has enjoyed rapid growth in Japan, South Korea, Germany, the US and France.

In Germany, more than 50,000 German doctors specialize in acupuncture and moxibustion. Many Japanese pharmaceutical companies rushed to register various Chinese medicine formulas. "Kyushin pills," based on the Chinese Liushenwan, have a yearly sales volume of nearly \$200 million. ■

Food Apps Index Unlicensed Restaurants

BY DIAO DIAO

In the rush to bring online ordering to the capital's restaurants, app makers may have neglected an important detail: whether the restaurants were even legal.

Reporters at *Beijing Youth Daily* found that many popular food apps such as Ele.me, Meituan Waimai and Baidu Waimai indexed numerous restaurants with lapsed licenses or fake licenses.

In Chaoyang District's Dingfuzhang area, students at Beijing International Studies University and Communication University of China are the main users of online food ordering apps.

In a search for nearest restaurants, five of the 10 nearest restaurants were sharing the license of Huijingyuan Restaurant Management, a restaurant whose actual address is in Huaxiang, Daxing District.

Twelve restaurants within 3 kilometers of Dingfuzhuang were found to be sharing that license.

Regulations on food apps specify that restaurants can only be added if their license and address match.

When asked about the discrepancy, a spokesperson for Ele.me attributed the overlap to the stores being chain locations. The restaurants denied having any chain relationship or cooperation with each other.

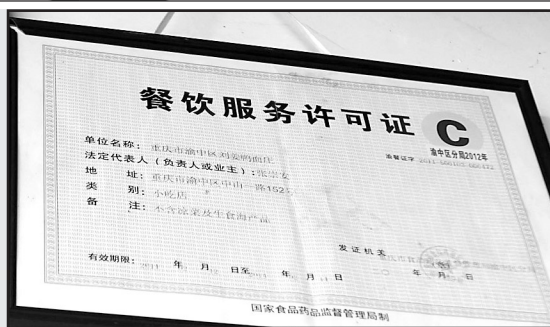
Reporters attempted to register a fake restaurant on Ele.me, Meituan Waimai and Baidu Waimai to test how the apps supervise new restaurants. During the application, reporters were only asked to check a "Have" or "Don't Have" option for the license. No photo evidence was required.

The owner of Zhishi Fenzi, a restaur-

ant opened in September, said an Ele.me employee came to the restaurant to check his license. He told the employee he was still in the application process. Ele.me said it would send someone to check again at a later date: no one ever came.

Ele.me also indexes restaurants whose licenses are in completely different provinces. A barbecue rice restaurant has a license issued by Nanchang, Jiangxi province and a registered address in Dalian, Liaoning province.

The Beijing Administration for Industry and Commerce and Chaoyang Food and Drug Administration requires that all restaurants in the capital must have a license issued in Beijing. Licenses from other cities cannot be used, and chain stores must apply for a local license. ■



CFP Photos



Shanghai Man Boards Bus to Fight its Driver

After a bout of road rage between a public bus and private car, the car's driver boarded the bus to challenge its driver to a fight this Sunday in Shanghai.

Netizens uploaded a video of the fight to streaming media sites. The drivers were initially seen arguing on the street. When the bus driver returned to his vehicle, the car's driver followed to continue the fight.

During the chaos, most of the passengers left the bus and called the police. Police fined the driver 700 yuan for smashing a bus window and other damages to the vehicle.

(The Paper.cn)

Police Shoot and Kill Black Bear in Middle School

Police in Raohe, Heilongjiang shot and killed an Asian black bear after it wandered into a local middle school last Thursday.

The bear was found walking around the teachers' dorms and smashing windows. It then entered the main school building.

"The bear was going crazy when we arrived. It roared at us, and there was a risk someone would get wounded," a forest ranger said. Police blockaded the road outside the school and decided to kill the bear.

Raohe is located on the border with Russia, where bears often cross the Wusuli River and enter China.

(Tencent News)

Driver Misses BMW, Hits 'the Ferrari of Bikes'

A driver surnamed Zhang struck a cyclist surnamed Lin in the city of Wenzhou on October 10. Zhang said he swerved into the bike lane to avoid striking a nearby BMW auto.

Zhang initially agreed to repair the bike as compensation, but was shocked to learn it was a 110,000 yuan Colnago CG imported from Italy.

A local bike shop confirmed the bike's frame cost 48,000 yuan, its wheels 25,000 yuan, its handlebars 3,700 yuan, its rear gear shift 3,600 yuan and its seat 2,066 yuan.

Zhang's insurance company said it would cover 80 percent of the damages, but Zhang would still have to pay 16,000 yuan on his own.

(The Paper.cn)

Friends to Pay Family for Man's Alcohol Poisoning, Death

A court in Nanchong, Sichuan province ordered six men to pay the survivors of their friend Yang 125,914 yuan as compensation for his death by alcohol poisoning.

Yang Liu, the deceased man's widow, was notified that her husband had slipped into a coma after a night of heavy drinking with his friends on January 18. They dropped him at his house and left. Yang rushed her husband to the hospital, where he died of acute heart failure at 3 pm the next day.

The court found that Yang's six friends caused him to drink himself to death even though they were aware of his heart condition. They also failed to provide him with medical attention or take any timely or effective measures to try to save him.

(QQ News)



Nanjing Massacre Enters Memory of the World

BY DIAO DIAO

UNESCO announced 47 new projects in its Memory of the World series, including China's Profile of Nanjing Massacre, at its 12th committee conference in Abu Dhabi on October 9.

Memory of the World, also called Memorial Heritage of the World or The World's Archival Heritage, is a UNESCO protection project created in 1992. It protects aging, at-risk and vanishing locations through international cooperation and modern technology.

In 2014, China applied to have the committee recognize the Nanjing Massacre. The application consisted of three parts: the story

of the Nanjing Massacre from 1937 to 1938; the files of investigators and judges working with the Republic of China Government Military Court from 1945 to 1947; and files from the judiciary system of the People's Republic of China.

The Nanjing government began preparing the application in 2009. Stories and materials were selected by The State Archives Administration of the People's Republic of China, the Second State Archives Administration, The Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders and seven other bureaus.

After the success of the application, Li Minghua, chairman of the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee of Memory of the World and secretary of the State Archives Administration of the People's Republic of China, said the Nanjing Massacre is a commonly accepted though late admission to Memory of the World.

Most international historians consider the Nanjing Massacre as one of the three most miserable massacres of World War II. The other two are the Auschwitz concentration camp and nuclear explosions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. ■

Application Collects 190 Million Students' Info

BY YANG XIN

For the past six months, primary and secondary school students nationwide have been urged to download an app and report their school affiliation, ID number and home address to the National Educational Technology Service Platform.

The Ministry of Education said it had already collected the information of 190 million students by October.

The Ministry of Education said on September 23 that the app was developed by 365IME (Beijing) Network Technology, a startup founded by Datang Telecom with 25 million yuan in registered capital.

The Education Information Management Center – a functional department affil-

iated with the Ministry of Education – handled the app's development.

"The app was rolled out everywhere except for in Hainan and Tianjin. In Guangdong, we expect to finish the management of questionable school rolls by November with the help of 365IME," said the management center's head, who is surnamed Ma.

Ma said the involvement of a seemingly commercial startup in the public project is due to the Ministry's lack of technical strength in app development.

While it is true that the application has largely facilitated the administrative management of school rolls, the storage of private information on a potentially com-



Photo by Yangcheng Evening News

mercial app worried many parents.

When asked whether there was a public bidding process for the project and how the development funds were used, Ma said the center never went through the proper administrative process.

"We are now on the process of completing formalities," Ma said.

According to Huxiu.com, a domestic business information portal, 365IME has 190 million users and focuses on education industry and instant messaging. Its estimated value is more than \$10 billion. ■



Online Dating a Path to Marriage for Young, Busy Chinese

BY SIMINA MISTREANU



CFP Photos

Ye Xiaofei received a friendship request on QQ from a young man she didn't know. She checked his QQ space and liked it, and thought it would be nice to get to know someone who works in IT.

Ye (pseudonym) is 23 years old and works in the oil industry. At first, the young man commented on her pictures and other posts on her QQ page. Ye asked him about his Microsoft Excel skills. They became friends, and a month and a half later, he invited her to have lunch together on a Sunday. That's how their romantic relationship started.

Her story is common among young Chinese, who are increasingly looking for love online, pressured by society's expectation to get married young and constrained by work schedules. China's two largest dating websites, Jiayuan.com and Baihe.com, together have 235 million registered users – more than twice the number of users of the Top 15 American dating sites combined.

Dating apps such as Momo, Tantan and Qingchifan are growing fast and attracting investment. And young people also use general messaging apps such as WeChat and QQ to meet romantic partners.

"We are in the Internet age," Ye said. "People are more open to strangers. Also, it's faster to find a person who meets your requirements by sorting through criteria online."

Online dating in China will generate about 10 billion yuan (\$1.6 billion) in annual sales by 2016, up 17 percent from 2014, according to market research firm iResearch. Dating websites make money from ads and membership fees, and also from offline mingling events and premium matchmaking services. Comparatively, most foreign dating sites rely on advertising.

Apart from being a boon for businesses, the rise of online dating is rooted in local matchmaking culture and influenced by demographic and economic forces.

Culture of Matchmaking

China's matchmaking tradition goes back 2,000 years to the Zhou dynasty. Every village used to have a Red Mother – a woman employed to find good matches among the community's youth. In 1950, Chairman Mao outlawed arranged marriages, but family elders remained pivotal in selecting and approving spouses.

But in recent decades, urbanization uprooted the traditional community-based networks through which people met their partners, making it more difficult for Chinese to mate.

"More so than ever, Chinese people are leaving their hometowns for educational or professional opportunities in cities like Beijing, and in doing so are forced to recreate their social network from scratch," said Jiayuan.com CFO Shang-Hsiu Koo in a study by the University of Pennsylvania.

Jiayuan.com was born under similar circumstances. Its co-founder, Gong Haiyan, created China's leading dating website from her college dorm in 2003. Then 27-year-old Gong was studying for a master's degree at Fudan University. She had little free time and no luck in finding a mate, and was not interested in the men in her village back in Hunan province. She signed up for a dating website and contacted several men.

She didn't hear back from any of them.

When she complained to the company that ran the website, she was told she was not "particularly beautiful or charming," so those men "couldn't possibly be interested in her," according to a BBC article. That's when Gong decided to set up her own dating service. A few months later she met her future husband through the website.

But China faces a crisis absent in other newly urbanized countries. The one-child policy, which was enacted in 1979, and the cultural preference for boys led to millions of sex-selective abortions in the 1980s and 1990s. Today, for every 100 females there are almost 120 males, a ratio that drives up the competition for finding a wife. According to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, by 2020 there will be 24 million more men of marriageable age than women.

According to Baihe.com, China had 180 million bachelors in 2011: half of them were looking for love online.

That doesn't mean women have it easier. In a culture where so much revolves around family and raising children, 98 percent of the women eventually marry – one of the highest rates in the world. But they need to marry well and to marry on time. Single women above 27 years old are labeled "leftover women."

So in this pressure-filled environment what role do dating websites play? Author Evan

Osnos wrote in the *New Yorker* that whereas in America online dating "has the power to expand your universe of potential mates; in China, a nation of 1.3 billion people, (it) promises to do the opposite."

Crucial in accomplishing this are the selection criteria on dating websites. But whereas users of foreign dating sites often try to impress with looks and personality, Chinese sites are more pragmatic. Educational background, monthly salary, height, age and home ownership often weigh the most in selecting a partner. Websites such as Jiayuan.com and Baihe.com allow users to weed out the opposite-sex pool by these criteria, along with others such as face shape, blood type and "degree of filial piety."

Men are generally expected to have a house, a car and a satisfying salary. Sixty-eight percent of women in developed cities said they would not marry a man until he owns a house, according to a study cited by *Foreign Policy*. A man without a house, a car and savings is called a "triple without."

Sour Love

The rise of online dating has led, on one hand, to market fragmentation. Dozens of websites and apps have sprouted in recent years. On the other hand, it has attracted an ever-expanding range of scams.

A study by University College London and Jiayuan.com published in May revealed that more than 500,000 of the website's accounts were suspected of fraud.

The dating platform was affected, along with its users. In May 2011, Jiayuan.com was listed on Nasdaq with an initial share value of \$11. In March of this year, the company's largest shareholder, Vast Profit Holdings, offered to buy the company back at \$5.37 per share. Gong sold her stake and left the company.

Apart from that, relationship sites have natural limits, Michelle Ma, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst, told Bloomberg.

"The industry has been growing over the years, but they will not grow as big as other social networking areas," she says. "The limitation is that people will leave after they find their partners."

Ye and her boyfriend whom she met on QQ dated for seven months, after which they split, sending her back into the dating game. ■

Photo by <http://sinacn.weibodangan.com>Photo by android.waptw.com

Smart Devices Usher in China's First Audiobook Boom

BY SHU PENGQIAN

Photo by news.mydrivers.com

In the never-ending quest to multitask, Chinese book lovers are making the jump from e-books to audiobooks.

But where the foreign audiobook industry has a history dating back to cassettes and an established pool of professional readers, China's late arrival has put it on a different path.

The Audio Publishers Association recorded the legal publishing of 7,237 audiobooks in the US in 2011, an increase of 17 percent from the previous year. The growth marks the tail end of an audiobook boom that began in 2009.

In China, the boom is just beginning.

There are more than 200 websites and 200 apps offering audiobooks to 130 million Chinese listeners, according to *The Paper*. Himalayan FM, China's biggest platform for audio file sharing, predicted the audiobook industry could be valued at 300 billion yuan within the next few years.

But that promising future hinges on how the fledgling industry manages to control its audio quality and weave around legal pitfalls.

Operating Models

The late arrival of audiobooks to China has left many popular texts unrecorded: the first round of apps made up for missing books by using the text-to-speech technology present in popular smart devices.

But beyond that crude robotic speech, app makers have been cultivating new pools of user-contributed readings and professional recordings.

Himalayan FM and Litchi FM have been especially active in recruiting fledgling authors to contribute both their own original works as well as corresponding recordings made with common software.

Kting, a competing platform, focuses on the professional model and pays authors to pen and record custom stories for its users.

The competition between free, crowd-sourced content and professionally made content is an old one last fought in the streaming video arena. But unlike in video – where sound troubles can be forgiven in audiobooks sound is paramount.

The poor quality of many user-submitted readings left early listeners disappointed. Finding a way to weed out poor quality recordings before they reach users remains a daunting task for sites that rely on the crowd-sourcing model.

But even professional recordings fall short, as most users are no longer content to be passive consumers of content. Many users aspire to be a broadcaster, reciting either their own articles of famous literary works.

Poor user retention and growing

demand has led the industry to splinter into some 200 apps that attempt to combine the models and improve the audiobook experience. Taking a few pointers from Old Time Radio shows, Kting has started to hire multiple readers for each book to play the different roles in its recordings.

But while the search for the perfect platform continues, copyright problems loom ever closers.

Rights Nightmare

Content is king, even in the world of audiobooks. No one wants to spend hours listening to a bad story.

Most of the public domain works worth recording have been recorded: now audiobook platform operators must battle for the rights to modern literature.

Kting recently purchased recording rights from dozens of writers to release its own versions of Yan Geling's *The Flowers of War*, Liu Heping's *All Quiet in Peking*, and Rao Xue-man's *The Left Ear*.

But with the country's less-than-enthusiastic approach to copyright protection, finding a way to protect each platform's recordings from its competitors will prove difficult.

In a recent case, Tencent was sued by Jinjiang Corp for distributing its recording of *The Journey of Flower* on Penguin FM. The case is currently being heard, but Jinjiang is seeking 7 million yuan in damages.

To combat such theft, Oxygen Tingshu launched an audiobook anti-piracy alliance last year. But fears of such cases have led many audiobook site operators to pursue the cheaper option of producing their own material.

Free Forever?

It's as hard to imagine audiobook platform operators charging for their materials as it is to imagine Chinese listeners paying for access.

While foreign bookstores have long dedicated shelf space to audiobooks, in China digital materials are still expected "to be free."

Sina.com said only 19 percent of the users it polled would be willing to pay for audiobooks, and even then they would never consider paying more than 10 yuan.

Kting's solution has been to charge its exclusive content and to give out user-generated content for free. While it appears to be working for now, it's hard to say how its business will survive the arrival of more companies to the industry.

If the development of China's streaming media industry is any indicator, the Chinese audiobook landscape of 2020 will look quite different from the one that users see today. ■

Tu Youyou's Nobel Win Renews Debate Over China's Academics

BY YANG XIN

Step aside, Yang Zhenning and Li Zhengdao: the Chinese academic community finally has someone new to applaud.

On October 5, the 85-year-old scientist Tu Youyou was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, making her China's first Nobel laureate in science. Tu discovered artemisinin, one of the greatest breakthroughs in the worldwide battle against malaria, during a health project in the 1970s.

But even while marveling at that feat,

domestic media have dwelled Tu's lack of academic credentials. Now a professor at the China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Tu has no Ph.D, no overseas study experience and has been repeatedly denied the title of academician.

Local media describe her as "the 'three withouts' scientist."

While Tu's lack of Ph.D and overseas study experience can mostly be attributed to closed periods in the Chinese history, her lack of a title is more puzzling.

System of Honor?

Established in 1993, the academician title is bestowed on full members of China's two leading academic institutions: the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE). As ministry-level institutions, the title is considered the highest national honor for a scientist.

The lifelong title also carries a considerable prestige and the opportunity for material benefits.

Academicians in China enjoy a monthly tax-free subsidy of 200 yuan from the nation. Local work units also give out monthly subsidies ranging from 1,000 to 5,000 yuan. The State Council also requires that senior academicians older than 85 receive a tax-free annual subsidy of 10,000 yuan.

Academicians are typically granted treatment equal to vice-ministerial level government officials, and receive preference over common people in both transportation and medical treatment.

The title essentially ensures that scholars no longer need to worry about their future. Universities and scientific research institutions scramble to recruit them – as well as the tens of millions of yuan in research funds the title brings.

Wuhan University of Technology claimed that academicians, as long as they take office in the university, can obtain 1 million yuan in scientific research funds, a 200-square-meter apartment and a 500,000 yuan relocation bonus.

In 2013, Jinan University posted a recruitment ad stating that new hires with an

academician title would receive an annual salary of 2 million yuan, a 1 million yuan relocation bonus, free housing and a guaranteed job for their spouse.

Guizhou University is even more generous, offering a 1.5 million yuan fund for apartment purchase, 5 million yuan in research funds, 10 million yuan in scientific platform construction funds and an annual salary of 1.8 million yuan.

Gu Haibing, a professor at the school of economics in Renmin University of China, said China and Russia are the only countries using the academician system. Equivalent academies of sciences in the US, UK, Japan, Germany and France consist solely of members and grant no economic or administrative benefits.

"Being elected to the member of a science society is more like an acknowledgment of the electee's performance. Members of the societies not only receive no subsidies, they must also pay membership fees to avoid forced retirement. The main privilege that members get is better access to scientific journals and books," Gu told *China Youth Daily*.

"The privilege tied to the title in China is why so many people will go to any length to become recognized as an academician," Lu Bai, executive vice-president of the Tsinghua University School of Medicine told ifeng.com.

Selection Biases

Tu is hardly the only accomplished scientist being passed over for the coveted academician title.

People's Daily explored the topic in a 2011 editorial titled "Why did Tu Youyou fail the academician election?"

"You might find some inspiration when looking at the personalities and scholastic styles of those who failed in the 'game.' Yuan Longping, the world-known agricultural scientist, spent most of his time in the rice field, studying on super rice. Li Aizhen, the scientist who has been dedicated to a life in the lab, might still be unknown to most Chinese if not elected a foreign academician by the US-based National Academy of Sciences. Tu Youyou, the Nobel Prize winner, is unsocial, unflattering and to speak frankly, cares little for anyone else's rank, according to Li Lianda, an old colleague of Tu," the *People's Daily* wrote.

"In sharp contrast, a considerable percentage of government officials and senior

managers are nominated academicians."

"The election of academicians in China has been focused too much on the candidates' interpersonal relationships rather than their academic achievements," Jin Dongyan, a professor at the School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Hong Kong wrote on ScienceNet.cn.

Rao Yi, a distinguished neurobiologist who failed the academician election in 2011, was acknowledged for his boldness in speaking out.

Having studied at the University of California and taught at Washington University and Northwestern University before moving back to China, Rao regards his failure as a warning from the system.

"If you take a look at the candidates list and notice the rankings, you'll see this is a systematic crackdown on professors with overseas teaching backgrounds. I'm not the only one," Rao said.

The backgrounds of most elected academicians remain a mystery to the public.

In his research about China's academician system, Professor Gu Haibing pointed out that information about elected academicians by CAS and CAE is selectively disclosed to the public and normally contains only names and work units to avoid exposing the nominees' positions or work experience.

"You can easily find out that most of the academicians are administrative officials in scientific research institutions or university presidents, sometimes even senior executives from state-owned enterprises. Under current system, they have access to more resources compared to scholars and could yield their power to facilitate application," Gu said.

"Are there any Chinese academicians who are not Party members?" netizens asked on Hupu.com.

Trend of Correction

Glaring flaws and mounting public pressures have the two authorities seeking a way to correct the academician selection system and burnish the reputations of current members.

Last year, the CAS and CAE adjusted their rules and stipulated that administrative bodies such as ministries and commissions, universities and municipal governments will no longer be able to recommend candidates.

Meanwhile, officials above the department-level in Party and government offices as well as civil servants will not be accepted for election. Candidates will have to go through a final appraisal process, and only those who pass everything can be elected.

Beijing Youth Daily reported on the amendment in August. This year, 157 candidates were selected in academician election, a dramatic decrease in number compared to 2013.

"I don't want to deny the academician system. There are reasons for it to be there, and it will certainly continue to exist," Rao said. ■



Photo by CFP



Goethe-Institut China Opens New Location in 798

BY WANG YAN



Photo by Li Yinjun/Goethe-Institut China

After more than 25 years of language and cultural work in China, Goethe-Institut China has a new location in 798 to provide its cultural programs.

The institute is hosting a series of events to mark the opening starting October 29. Terrence Ngassa & Band (Cologne), DJ Ivan and X.L.F (Beijing), Jacob Korn (Dresden) and White will perform in 798 to kick off the series.

Ngassa is one of the hottest trumpet players in Europe's jazz scene. Originally from Cameroon, he quickly made a name for himself as a star virtuoso. He combines his African roots with European tradition and American musical culture in a masterful fashion.

DJ Ivan Binary is a member of CiQi-party, as well as DJ and producer of the label Zarah Music. He started his music career as a DJ in 2013 with a specialization in minimal house, dub techno and ambient, and he endeavors to explore new boundaries in music.

XLF (Xiao Linfeng) is a DJ and recording artist and the co-founder of Acupuncture Records. As a DJ, XLF is recognized for his diverse electronic music styles and praised for creating a "sense of audio history."

Jacob Korn is from Dresden, Germany and was born in the early 1980s. In addition to his work in interfacing audio, video and dance, Korn has been producing electronic music for what seems like an eternity. His sound is influenced by Kraftwerk and the

sound of 90s techno and house.

Early in his career he combined Hip Hop and Techno with elements of Jazz and weird electronics under the moniker Granufunk. Under his civil name he is focusing on classic but versatile Techno and House.

After releases on labels such as Running Back, Skylax and Permanent Vacation, a brilliant first release on Steffi's Dolly Label (the highly acclaimed Supakrank) and of course Uncanny Valley, he now spearheads the German house scene with his tracks and remixes as well as his live sets.

White is the project group of Carsick Cars frontman Zhang Shouwang and Wang Xu, the acclaimed drummer of The Gar. They describe the

project as a "hardware electronica band" with Shouwang in charge of vocals and customized keyboards, pedals and loops, while Wang Xu plays drums and a sampler that generates the pulsing and rolling background beats.

Their music flaunts some brilliant sparks as it reflects the duo's minimalist taste, creating delicate structures surrounded by a field of noise. One of their fans describes their live shows as "a detailed and accurate cell division."

On October 30, the institute is inviting the audience to meet and speak with curators. On October 31 it will host an international forum to explore the topic of whether design can change a society. ■

Japanese Embassy Launches Cultural Exchange Month

BY WANG YAN



Photo by hiroshiseo.com



Photo by negativefilm.com

The Japanese Embassy in China is hosting a culture exchange month throughout October.

Events began on October 13 with two days of performances by Yamato drummers at 9 Play House. On October 16 and 17, it organized a craftsmanship exhibition from Iwate-ken at the China Millennium Monument.

The embassy is hosting an animation exhibition and concert with Diana Garnet this Saturday.

Born and raised in Washington DC, Garnet's personal interest in animation led her to

study abroad in Japan at the age of 16 in 2005.

Today she lives in Tokyo and is a professional singer on the Sony Music Records label. In cooperation with Joe Inoue, Garnet released "Spinning World," the theme song for *Naruto Shippuden*, in February.

Following Garnet's concert, NHK Symphony Orchestra will perform at the Grand National Theater on October 31. The orchestra is based in Tokyo and performs at the NHK Hall, the Suntory Hall and the Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall.

It began as the New Symphony Orchestra

on October 5, 1926 and was the country's first professional symphony orchestra. Later, it changed its name to Japan Symphony Orchestra. It took its current name after receiving financial support from NHK in 1951.

Saturday's performance is the third time the orchestra will perform in China.

From November 2 to 6, the embassy will start a Japanese film week where it will screen two movies each day.

5 Centimeters Per Second and *The Garden of Words* directed by Makoto Shinkai will kick off the weeklong screening event.

Released in 2007, *5 Centimeters Per Second* follows Japan from the 1990s up through then present day. *The Garden of Words* is a 2013 film adapted to manga by Midori Motohashi and later novelized by Shinkai.

Switching to a food theme, the embassy is screening *Shiawasee no Pan*, directed by Yukiko Mishima, and *The Chef of South Polar*, by Shuichi Okita, on November 3.

Other films include *Quartet*, *Osaka Hamlet*, *Haru Tono Tabi* and *Kimi ni Todoke*. ■

Robbie Danzie Sings at Ritz-Carlton Bar

Spend your windy autumn nights drinking and chatting to the sweet sounds of Robbie Danzie at the Ritz-Carlton Bar. Danzie, an expert storyteller, captures the drama of life with her voice.

Danzie held her first show, "Journey in Rhythm - To Love," at the bar of the Ritz-Carlton Beijing on October 22. The show lasted about 90 minutes and was divided into three episodes titled "The Longing," "The Loss" and "The Life."

Even if you missed opening night, that's no reason to fret! Danzie will be singing regularly at the Ritz-Carlton Beijing through the end of 2015.

About the Ritz-Carlton Beijing

The Ritz-Carlton Beijing is located within the heart of Beijing's central business district and is centrally situated in the capital's thriving China Central Place business area.

The hotel offers easy access to the city's historical and cultural landmarks, such as the Forbidden City, Wangfujing and Shichahai.

The Ritz-Carlton features 305



well-appointed guest rooms, including 38 suites and 61 Ritz-Carlton Club Level rooms.

Guests staying at The Ritz-Carlton Club Level can access the Club Lounge, which offers five complimentary food and beverages throughout the day, a full business center, concierge services and wireless Internet access.

The hotel also contains six exquisite restaurants and bars, including Barolo, serving authentic Italian Cuisine, Yu, serving fine Cantonese Cuisine, Aroma, serving world cuisine throughout the day, The Ritz-Carlton Bar, The Lobby Lounge and The Davidoff Lounge.

Other exclusive facilities include the Ritz-Carlton Spa, fitness center, indoor pool, spacious meeting and conference space, ballroom and wedding chapel.

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel belongs to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, which operates 87 hotels in the US, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Marriott International. ■

(By Shu Pengqian)



BEIJING TODAY eDigest | 《今日北京》电子文摘

Beijing Today eDigest is distributed globally via email.

As of February 20, 2015, the eDigest has been delivered to 102,000 readers per issue since its launch on August 1, 2013.

- 今日北京电子文摘—eDigest于2013年8月正式上线；
- 精选内容每周五通过电子邮件点对点全球精准投送；
- eDigest的读者主要包括全球主要英语国家读者、各国使馆外交官、国际商务人士、国际文化交流人士及国际知名高校学者学生等；
- 截止到2015年2月20日，eDigest全球有效受众达到102,000人/期。



For free subscription, please send your contact information to info@beijingtoday.com.cn

Hotline: +86 (10) 6590 2515 Fax: +86 (10) 6590 2525